

Message Text

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46

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SAM-01 SAB-01 AID-05 IO-10

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

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R 191307Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7160

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONGEN JERUSALEM

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR IS EG XF

SUBJECT: ISRAELI PRESS ON PROSPECTS FOR INTERIM SETTLEMENT

1. PRESS CONTINUES TO SPECULATE ON PROSPECTS OF INTERIM SETTLEMENT BETWEEN ISRAEL AND EGYPT. WHILE UNCERTAINTY MARKS MOST REPORTS, SEVERAL NEWSPAPERS EXPRESS INCREASED OPTIMISM REGARDING OUTCOME OF NEGOTIATIONS AND CLAIM THAT "TECHNICAL DETAILS DELAY OFFICIAL CONCLUSION OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE SIDES". (MAARIV-SEGEV)

2. HAARETZ (GOLAN) QUOTES "VERY SENIOR SOURCES" IN JERUSALEM AS SAYING THAT "INTERIM SETTLEMENT NEGOTIATIONS WILL REACH A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION WITHIN A FEW WEEKS." GOLAN ADDS THAT "IT SEEMS THAT THE CENTRAL PROBLEM NOW ...IS THE PROBLEM OF THE EASTERN PASS IN THE SINAI, UNCLASSIFIED

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I.E., THE GIDI PASS. IT WAS LEARNED THAT EGYPT

WILL PROBABLY BE READY TO GIVE UP THE WAR OPTION FOR A PERIOD OF 3-4 YEARS... IN RETURN FOR SUCH A COMMITMENT RABIN SAID THAT ISRAEL WOULD BE PREPARED TO WITHDRAW FROM THE MITLA PASS...PROVIDED THE TWO COUNTRIES AGREE ON SETTING UP WARNING INSTALLATIONS. IN THE SUEZ GULF-ABU RODEIS AREA RABIN AGREED THAT EGYPT SHOULD HAVE A WIDER TERRITORIAL CONTINUITY THAN THE ONE DISCUSSED IN MARCH... THE OPION IN JERUSALEM IS THAT THE FATE OF THE AGREEMENT DEPENDS NOW ON EGYPT'S READINESS TO GIVE UP ITS DEMAND FOR ALL THE AREA OF THE PASSES. THE GENERAL ATMOSPHERE IN JERUSALEM IS THAT, BECAUSE OF ITS RELATIONS WITH THE US, ISRAEL MUST DO THE MAXIMUM TO REACH AN AGREEMENT..."

3. ON THE SYRIAN PROBLEM, GOLAN WRITES THAT "IT WILL BE SOLVED IN THE AGREEMENT WITH EGYPT BY PARALLEL COMMITMENTS BY ISRAEL AND EGYPT. EGYPT WILL MAKE A COMMITMENT NOT TO JOIN A WAR IN THE AREA WITHOUT MENTIONING SYRIA, WHILE ISRAEL WILL MAKE A COMMITMENT TO HOLD SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS WITH SYRIA..." ON THE QUESTION OF ISRAELI CARGOES, GOLAN WRITES THAT "EGYPT HAS PROBABLY MADE A COMMITMENT TO ALLOW ISRAELI CARGOES THROUGH THE CANAL AFTER AN AGREEMENT ON THE DETAILS OF A SETTLEMENT IS REACHED, BUT BEFORE SIGNING THE NEW AGREEMENT..."

4. MAARIV (SEGEV) REPORTS THAT AMBASSADOR EILTS WILL RETURN TO CAIRO WITH DETAILS OF ISRAELI PROPOSALS. "ACCORDING TO SOURCES IN WASHINGTON PM RABIN HAS EXPRESSED READINESS TO EVACUATE THE MITLA AND GIDI PASSES ONLY ON CONDITION THAT THE ISRAELI INTELLIGENCE INSTALLATIONS IN UM-HASHIVA CONTINUE TO OPERATE AND THAT AN ISRAELI MILITARY FORCE BE STATIONED THERE TO PROTECT THE INSTALLATIONS AND THE TECHNICIANS... ISRAEL IS ALSO DEMANDING THAT THIS FORCE HAVE DIRECT ACCESS TO ISRAELI TROOPS IN THE REAR, AND THAT FREE MOVEMENT BE GUARANTEED WITHOUT DISTURBANCE BY UN OBSERVERS. THE SOURCES CLAIM THAT THESE 'TECHNICAL' UNCLASSIFIED

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DETAILS DELAY THE OFFICIAL CONCLUSION OF THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE SIDES..."

5. YEDIOT (ZIMUKI AND KIVITI) ALSO QUOTE AMERICAN SOURCES AS CLAIMING THAT "NOT ONLY WILL PRESIDENT SADAT AGREE TO MAKE A COMMITMENT FOR A REASONABLE DURATION..., BUT HE WILL ALSO BE PREPARED TO MAKE OTHER CONCESSIONS. BUT, THE

AMERICANS EMPHASIZE, EGYPTIAN READINESS TO MAKE CONCESSIONS IS ON THE CONDITION THAT ANY COMMITMENT WILL BE MADE ONLY TO THE US, AND WILL NOT BE PUBLIC... THE CONTINUATION OF THE NEGOTIATIONS DEPEND NOW ON SADAT HIMSELF, WHO HAS SO FAR REFRAINED FROM GIVING CLEAR DETAILS OF HIS PROPOSALS..."

6. REFERRING TO INTERIM SETTLEMENT NEGOTIATIONS, FM ALLON SAID IN AN ADDRESS BEFORE JEWISH AGENCY ASSEMBLY IN JERUSALEM (JUNE 18) THAT "IN PRIMIN'S LATEST TALKS IN WASHINGTON, PROGRESS WAS REACHED ON WAYS TO NARROW THE GAP BETWEEN THE ISRAELI AND EGYPTIAN POSITIONS. IN MY OPINION THE PROGRESS HAS BEEN REAL..." ALLON ALSO SAID THAT THE US SHOULD NOT PUT FORTH "ITS OWN IDEAS BUT RATHER ENCOURAGE THE PARTIES INVOLVED TO OFFER THE IDEAS..." (JERUSALEM POST REPORT).

7. JERUSALEM POST (BLITZER) EXPRESSES UNCERTAINTY REGARDING OUTCOME OF INTERIM-SETTLEMENT NEGOTIATIONS AND WRITES THAT "ISRAEL AND THE US, AS WELL AS EGYPT, AND NOW THE SOVIET UNION, ARE ALL ANXIOUS FOR ANOTHER AGREEMENT TO BE ACHIEVED, US OFFICIALS BELIEVE. BUT THEY ARE STILL UNCERTAIN WHETHER THE GAP SEPARATING THE TWO SIDES CAN BE BRIDGED. AMBASSADOR EILTS' TALKS WITH SADAT...WILL DETERMINE THE EGYPTIAN RESPONSE..."

8. SEVERAL NEWSPAPERS PUBLISH EXTENSIVE QUOTES FROM WASHINGTON POST STORY BY EVANS AND NOVAK (JUNE 18) ASSERTING THAT PM'S RABIN RECENT TALKS IN WASHINGTON HAVE "HARDENED THE DEADLOCK" IN ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN NEGOTIATIONS, RATHER THAN "CLEARING THE AIR FOR ANOTHER ROUND OF SHUTTLE DIPLOMACY..."
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VELIOTES

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